



**United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia**

**Channing Phillips
United States Attorney**

PRESS RELEASE

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Former Department of Interior Credit Union Supervisor Pleads Guilty to Taking \$25,110 in Depositors' Funds

WASHINGTON - Monica Michals, a 36-year-old former employee of the Department of Interior Federal Credit Union, has pled guilty to a charge of taking property in the care, custody and control of a credit union, in connection with her theft of more than \$25,000 in depositors' funds over a two-year period from 2006 to 2008, U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today. Michals, currently residing in Oxon Hill, MD, entered her guilty plea on January 11, 2010, before the Honorable Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. When Michals is sentenced on May 21, 2010, she faces up to 10 years' imprisonment. As part of her plea agreement, Michals has agreed to pay full restitution.

According to the government's evidence, Michals was employed by the DOI Credit Union since 2000, first as a teller and later as a supervisor. Beginning in May 2006, and continuing until October 2008, Michals used a number of methods to steal money on 25 different occasions, from the accounts of at least three members of the Credit Union, two of whom were elderly and thus especially vulnerable victims. Specifically, Michals at times made cash withdrawals from the victims' accounts, sometimes had other tellers make withdrawals at her request, which she said were for the victims, and on still other occasions transferred money from the victims' accounts to her own or her mother's account. In addition, Michals made unauthorized transfers of funds into and out of the victims' accounts, from unrelated accounts, in order to conceal changes in the victims' balances, and also flagged various accounts as "no mail" accounts so that the victims and others would not learn of the thefts and unauthorized transactions.

In announcing today's guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Phillips praised the work of Special Agent Denise Laws of the Department of Homeland Security Federal Protective Service. He also acknowledged the efforts of Legal Assistant Jamasee Lucas and SEEP Student Sierra Tate of the U.S. Attorney's Office, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Friedman, who is handling this prosecution.

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